

Rear Admiral Richard R. Behn, NOAA Director, Marine and Aviation Operations Centers

RADM Richard R. Behn, NOAA Corps, is the director of NOAA's Marine and Aviation Operations Centers, which are part of NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO). He was nominated for this position by President George W. Bush, confirmed by the Senate, and subsequently promoted to rear admiral, lower half in August 2004.

As director, RADM Behn is responsible for the safe operations of NOAA aircraft and ships as well as the management of NMAO's \$100M budget and more than 500 personnel based on shore and within the fleet.

The Aircraft Operations Center, located in Tampa, Fla., on MacDill Air Force Base, oversees NOAA's 14 fixed-wing and rotor aircraft, including the renowned NOAA "hurricane hunters." The Marine Operations Centers, located in Norfolk, Va., and Seattle, Wash., oversee NOAA's 18 multi-purpose oceanographic research, fisheries research, and hydrographic survey vessels. Port offices are located in Woods Hole, Mass.; Charleston, S.C.; Pascagoula, Miss.; San Diego, Calif.; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Kodiak and Ketchikan, Alaska.



RADM Behn has been a commissioned officer in the NOAA Corps since 1978. He has accumulated seven years of sea duty and five years of mobile shore duty. He has served aboard four of NOAA's oceanographic and fisheries research ships, sailing the waters from the Arctic to the Antarctic, in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. His last sea tour was aboard NOAA Ship McArthur, first as executive officer and then as commanding officer.

RADM Behn's shore tours have included a variety of administrative and management positions, all with increasing responsibility. Prior to his promotion to rear admiral, he was the executive director to NOAA's Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce where he assisted in managing NOAA employees nationwide along with the agency's multibillion dollar budget. Other assignments include executive officer to NOAA's chief scientist and executive director of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (now NMAO). Earlier in his career, RADM Behn attended the U.S. Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va., where he received formal training as a senior staff officer in support of Department of Defense activities.

RADM Behn serves as the co-chair of NOAA's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Steering Committee and as a member of NOAA's Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Steering Committee. He has served as acting chairman of NOAA's Incentive Awards Board, NOAA's Diversity Council and NOAA's Equal Employment Opportunity Council. He led NOAA's nationwide 30th Anniversary efforts and chaired the Department of Commerce's Combined Federal Campaign--the world's third largest campaign in 1998--raising more than \$2.5 million in contributions.

RADM Behn holds a bachelor's degree in physical oceanography from Rutgers University. Since joining NOAA, he has accumulated more than 500 hours of management and leadership training and was selected to attend the Excellence in Government Fellows Program. RADM Behn has been awarded the NOAA Bronze Medal (NOAA's highest award), NOAA Corps Commendation Medals, NOAA Corps Special Achievement Awards, and NOAA Corps Director's ribbons.

RADM Behn is a native of Neptune, N.J. He and his wife, the former Alisa Nadean Benincasa of Stockton, Calif., currently reside in Rockville, Md. They have one daughter, Lauren, who is married to George Lukas of Olney, Md.